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AN ACT

RELATING TO THE JUDICIAL BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT; PROVIDING FOR
A CONSOLIDATION STUDY COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL
CONSOLIDATION OF THE MAGISTRATE AND MUNICIPAL COURTS IN DONA
ANA COUNTY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. CONSOLIDATION STUDY COMMITTEE--COMPOSITION--
DUTIES.--

A. With the approval and direction of the supreme
court, the administrative office of the courts shall create a
"consolidation study committee" to study the potential
consolidation of the magistrate and municipal courts in Dona
Ana county. The committee shall consist of fifteen members
as follows:

(1) a district judge from the third judicial
district, appointed by the chief judge of the district;

(2) a Dona Ana county magistrate judge,
appointed by the director of the administrative office of the
courts;

(3) a municipal judge from the city of Las
Cruces, appointed by the director of the administrative
office of the courts;

(4) three attorneys who commonly practice in
the Dona Ana county magistrate court or the city of

1 Las Cruces municipal court, appointed by the third judicial
2 district bar association;

3 (5) one public member appointed by the mayor
4 of the city of Las Cruces;

5 (6) one public member appointed by the board
6 of county commissioners for Dona Ana county;

7 (7) one administrative employee from the
8 Dona Ana county magistrate court, appointed by the
9 magistrates;

10 (8) one administrative employee from the
11 city of Las Cruces municipal court, appointed by the
12 municipal judges;

13 (9) one administrative employee from the
14 third judicial district court, appointed by the district
15 court judges;

16 (10) a designee of the director of the
17 administrative office of the courts;

18 (11) the district attorney for the third
19 judicial district;

20 (12) the district public defender for the
21 third judicial district; and

22 (13) a member of the city council of the
23 city of Las Cruces, appointed by the city council.

24 B. The committee shall elect a chair and such
25 other officers as it deems necessary. The committee shall

1 meet at the call of the chair but no less than once per
2 month. The committee may contract with a part-time
3 individual to assist the committee with its administrative
4 functions.

5 C. The committee shall investigate and evaluate
6 the effectiveness and judicial efficiency of community-based
7 judicial systems in other areas and determine the feasibility
8 of creating a consolidated system in the Dona Ana county court
9 system. The committee shall report its findings and
10 recommendation to the city council, the board of county
11 commissioners and the legislature by December 1, 2005. _____

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